

NSC BRIEFING

29 April 1954

NEW SOVIET JET BOMBERS

- I. Sightings during May Day rehearsals.
- A. 18 April - one observer saw nine planes - possibly heavy jet bombers (Type 37) - between US-B-47 + B-52 in size.  
*(Type 37 is US designation of new Sov aircraft where estimated Other observers on the 18th saw only)*
- B. Other observers on the 18th saw only one Type 37. *Soviet designation still unknown*
- C. In four subsequent observations through 25 April, only one Type 37 seen.
- D. On 19 and 25 April, observers also noted first six, then 11, hitherto unidentified jet medium bombers (like B-47).
- E. Existence of 11 new jet medium bombers would moderately advance present estimates. Existence of nine Type 37s, extremely doubtful, would greatly advance estimates.

OGA review completed

II. Present estimates (SNIE 11-2-54).

A. Jet medium bombers:

1. Series production - in 1954.
2. Fifty operational by mid-1955;  
325 by end of 1957.
3. Performance will improve Soviet  
capabilities against strategic  
targets on periphery.

B. Jet heavy bombers:

1. Series production - sometime in  
1956.
2. Twenty operational in 1957.
3. Eventual introduction will sig-  
nificantly improve Soviet  
capabilities for attack on US.

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III. Soviet program (SNIE 11-2-54) includes:

- A. Heavy - turbo-propeller powered:
  - 1. Prototype observed July 1951:  
Type 31.
  - 2. Combat radius - 3,000 n.m.
  - 3. Range (one way) - 5,600 n.m.
- B. Heavy - jet powered:
  - 1. Observed Moscow July 1953:  
Type 37.
  - 2. Combat radius - 2,500 n.m.
  - 3. Range - 4,800 n.m.
- C. Medium - jet powered:
  - 1. German scientists' reports.
  - 2. Combat radius - 1,500 n.m.
  - 3. Range - 2,900 n.m.

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